

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) A conjugate comprising ~~[[the]] a~~ reaction product of ~~[[the]] an~~ intermediate having the formula ~~$P-O-(CH_2-CH_2-SO_2-CH=CH_2)_n$~~ ~~$P-(O-CH_2-CH_2-SO_2-CH=CH_2)_n$~~ , wherein n is an integer and is at least 1, and P represents a hydrophilic biopolymer, with ~~[[and]]~~ a biologically active material capable of being covalently ~~and nucleophilically~~ bonded to said intermediate, wherein the hydrophilic biopolymer is hyaluronan and the biologically active material is alpha-interferon.

8-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A conjugate according to claim ~~[[12 and]]~~ 7, having the formula $HA-O-CH_2-CH_2-SO_2-CH_2-CH_2-NH-INF$, wherein HA represents a hyaluronan moiety ~~or a moiety of a mixture of a hyaluronan with at least one other hydrophilic polymer~~, and INF represents an alpha-interferon moiety.

14-31. (Canceled)

32. (New) A conjugate according to claim 7, wherein the hyaluronan has a molecular weight of about 1×10^3 to 1×10^7 Da.